

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COA-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 INT-08

SCI-06 DRC-01 RSC-01 DLOS-07 L-03 /051 W

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R 100920Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3224

INFO HARRY RIETZE, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE, JUNEAU, ALASKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9102

PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA, XP

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF ACTIVITY OF NO. 2 MEISEI MARU

REF: TELEGRAM RIETZE TO AMEMBASSY (R 271739Z JUN 74)

1. ON JULY 1, REGFISHATT CONTACTED HONDA, FIRST NORTH AMERICA
DIVISION, FONOFF, REGARDING ACTIVITY OF NO. 2 MEISEI MARU.
HONDA INITIALLY WAS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO EXPLORE MATTER
WITH FISHERIES AGENCY (JPA) SINCE HE CONSIDERED IT TO BE
INTERNAL MATTER. REGFISHATT EXPLAINED THAT IF VESSEL WERE
SERVING AS MOTHERSHIP, THAT WOULD INCREASE CAPABILITY OF
JAPANESE SALMON FLEET TO CATCH SALMON AND, IN TURN, INCREASE
LIKELIHOOD OF FLEET CATCHING GREATER NUMBERS OF BRISTOL BAY
SALMON. IN VIEW OF POOR CONDITION OF BRISTOL BAY RUN, IT
WAS THUS NATURAL FOR US TO BE NOT ONLY PUZZLED BUT SOMEWHAT
ANXIOUS TO CLARIFY ACTIVITY OF NO. 2 MEISEI MARU. HONDA
STATED HE WOULD CONTACT JFA TO CLARIFY MATTER.

2. AFTER LONG DELAY IN RESPONSE, HONDA INFORMED REGFISHATT
JULY 10 THAT JFA CLAIMED THAT NO. 2 MEISEI MARU WAS NOT
LISTED IN OFFICIAL VESSEL REGISTRY AND THERE WAS NO SUCH
VESSEL CURRENTLY IN EXISTENCE. HE ADDED THAT JFA DID NOT FEEL IT
WAS QUOTE PROPER END QUOTE TO MAKE AN INQUIRY OF
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NICHIRO FISHING CO. WHICH OWNED VESSEL AS OF YEAR OR TWO

AGO, SINCE THAT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO ACCUSING A PERSON OF WRONGDOING WITHOUT ANY HARD EVIDENCE. IF US HAD PHOTOGRAPH OF VESSEL IN OPERATON, JFA WOULD BE WILLING TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER.

3. ON JULY 9, REGFISHATT LEARNED THROUGH DISCREET INQUIRY THAT NICHIRO FISHING CO. HAD RENAMED NO. 2 MEISEI MARU. VESSEL NOW CALLED SHINANO MARU (ORIGINAL SHINANO AMARU SOLD FOR SCRAP). SHINANO MARU IS ONE OF TEN MOTHER-SHIPS LICENSED TO ENGAGE IN SALMON FISHING.

4. HAVING HAD THIS INFORMATION AND NOT WISHING TO DEVULGE SOURCE, REGFISHATT SUGGESTED TO HONDA THAT VESSEL MAY POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN RENAMED. THIS MAY HAVE CREATED CONFUSION AND DECIDED TO LET MATTER DROP.

5. SHOULD USCG HAVE INFORMATION WHICH CONTRADICTS INFORMATION IN PARA 3, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED.

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Message Attributes

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